

logical characteristics of a project site to create and maintain habitat that did not previously exist on the project site, including construction of—

- (A) shallow water impoundments on non-hydric soils; and
- (B) side channel spawning and rearing habitat.

(4) Habitat improvement

The term “habitat improvement” means restoring, enhancing, or establishing physiographic, hydrological, or disturbance conditions necessary to establish or maintain native plant and animal communities, including periodic manipulations to maintain intended habitat conditions on completed project sites.

(5) Habitat restoration

(A) In general

The term “habitat restoration” means the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning the majority of natural functions to the lost or degraded native habitat.

(B) Inclusions

The term “habitat restoration” includes—

- (i) an activity conducted to return a project site, to the maximum extent practicable, to the ecological condition that existed prior to the loss or degradation, including—

- (I) removing tile drains or plugging drainage ditches in former or degraded wetland;

- (II) returning meanders and sustainable profiles to straightened streams;

- (III) burning grass communities heavily invaded by exotic species to reestablish native grass and plant communities; and

- (IV) planting plant communities that are native to the project site;

- (ii) if restoration of a project site to its original ecological condition is not practicable, an activity that repairs 1 or more of the original habitat functions and that involve the use of native vegetation, including—

- (I) the installation of a water control structure in a swale on land isolated from overbank flooding by a major levee to simulate natural hydrological processes; and

- (II) the placement of streambank or instream habitat diversity structures in streams that cannot be restored to original conditions or profile; and

- (iii) removal of a disturbing or degrading element to enable the native habitat to reestablish or become fully functional.

(6) Private land

(A) In general

The term “private land” means any land that is not owned by the Federal Government or a State.

(B) Inclusions

The term “private land” includes tribal land and Hawaiian homeland.

(7) Project

The term “project” means a project carried out under the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program established by section 3773 of this title.

(8) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(Pub. L. 109-294, § 3, Oct. 3, 2006, 120 Stat. 1352.)

§ 3773. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

The Secretary shall carry out the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to provide—

- (1) technical and financial assistance to private landowners for the conduct of voluntary projects to benefit Federal trust species by promoting habitat improvement, habitat restoration, habitat enhancement, and habitat establishment; and

- (2) technical assistance to other public and private entities regarding fish and wildlife habitat restoration on private land.

(Pub. L. 109-294, § 4, Oct. 3, 2006, 120 Stat. 1354.)

§ 3774. Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this chapter not more than \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2011.

(Pub. L. 109-294, § 5, Oct. 3, 2006, 120 Stat. 1354.)

CHAPTER 58—ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLAND CONSERVATION AND RESERVE PROGRAM

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SUBCHAPTER I—DEFINITIONS

§ 3801. Definitions

(a) For purposes of subchapters I through V of this chapter:

(1) The term “agricultural commodity” means—

(A) any agricultural commodity planted and produced in a State by annual tilling of the soil, including tilling by one-trip planters; or

(B) sugarcane planted and produced in a State.

(2) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER.—The term “beginning farmer or rancher” has the meaning given the term in section 1991(a)(8) of title 7.

(3) CONSERVATION PLAN.—The term “conservation plan” means the document that—

(A) applies to highly erodible cropland;

(B) describes the conservation system applicable to the highly erodible cropland and describes the decisions of the person with respect to location, land use, tillage systems, and conservation treatment measures and schedule; and

(C) is approved by the local soil conservation district, in consultation with the local committees established under section 590h(b)(5) of this title and the Secretary, or by the Secretary.

(4) CONSERVATION SYSTEM.—The term “conservation system” means a combination of 1 or more conservation measures or management practices that—

(A) are based on local resource conditions, available conservation technology, and the standards and guidelines contained in the Natural Resources Conservation Service field office technical guides; and

(B) are designed to achieve, in a cost effective and technically practicable manner, a substantial reduction in soil erosion or a substantial improvement in soil conditions on a field or group of fields containing highly erodible cropland when compared to the level of erosion or soil conditions that existed before the application of the conservation measures and management practices.

(5) The term “conservation district” means any district or unit of State or local government formed under State or territorial law for the express purpose of developing and carrying out a local soil and water conservation pro-